

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims replaces all other versions of claims previously presented.

**Listing of Claims:**

1 (Currently amended): A secondary battery comprising: a positive electrode; a negative electrode; a porous electron-insulating layer adhered to a surface of at least one selected from the group consisting of said positive electrode and said negative electrode; and an electrolyte,

wherein said porous electron-insulating layer comprises a particulate filler and a resin binder, and said particulate filler substantially comprises an indefinite-shape particle, comprising a plurality of single crystalline particles, which has the shape of dendrites, grape clusters, or coral, said shape having a neck, wherein said neck is formed between and joins at least a pair of said single crystalline particles, said neck comprising the same material as said single crystalline particles, wherein said porous electron-insulating layer has a porosity of 50% or more, and said indefinite-shape particles maintain their shape when subjected to a shearing force to disperse the particles in a liquid component to form a slurry,

wherein said indefinite-shape particle comprises a metal oxide, and

said resin binder comprises a polyacrylic acid derivative.

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2-3 (Canceled)

4 (Previously Presented): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein said indefinite-shape particle comprises a plurality of primary particles bonded to each other, and said indefinite-shape particle has a mean particle size that is twice or more than the mean particle size of said primary particles and not more than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5 (Canceled)

6 (Currently amended): The secondary battery in accordance with claim [[5]] 1, wherein said particulate filler further comprises resin [[fine]] particles.

7 (Canceled)

8 (Original): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein said positive electrode comprises a composite lithium oxide, said negative electrode comprises a material capable of charging and discharging lithium, and said electrolyte comprises a non-aqueous solvent and a lithium salt dissolved in the non-aqueous solvent.

9 (Original): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a separator sheet that is interposed between said positive electrode and said negative electrode, said separator sheet being independent of both said positive electrode and said negative electrode.

10-15 (Canceled)

16 (Currently amended): A secondary battery comprising: a positive electrode; a negative electrode; a porous electron-insulating layer adhered to a surface of at least one selected from the group consisting of said positive electrode and said negative electrode; and an electrolyte,

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wherein said porous electron-insulating layer comprises a particulate filler and a resin binder, and said particulate filler substantially comprises indefinite-shape particles, wherein said indefinite-shape particles are polycrystalline particles comprising a plurality of single crystalline particles that are diffusion bonded to each other, and a neck is formed between at least a pair of said single crystalline particles, said neck comprising the same material as said single crystalline particles,

wherein said porous electron-insulating layer has a porosity of 50% or more,

said indefinite-shape particles comprise a metal oxide, and

said resin binder comprises a polyacrylic acid derivative.

17 (Previously presented): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 16, wherein said indefinite-shape particles have a mean particle size that is twice or more than the mean particle size of said single crystalline particles and not more than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

18 (Canceled)

19 (Currently amended): The secondary battery in accordance with claim ~~[[18]]~~ 16, wherein said particulate filler further comprises resin ~~[[fine]]~~ particles.

20-21 (Canceled)

22 (Previously Presented): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein said indefinite-shape particles are adhered with said binder.

23-24 (Canceled)

25 (Previously Presented): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 16, wherein said indefinite-shape particles are adhered with said binder.

26 (Currently amended): The secondary battery in accordance with claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1,  

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wherein said metal oxide comprises alumina particles.

27 (Currently amended): The secondary battery in accordance with claim ~~[[18]]~~ 16,  
wherein said metal oxide comprises alumina particles.